

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 19389

EXDIS

USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, IN
SUBJECT: BILATERAL AID TO INDIA/CONSORTIUM STANCE

1. IN PRE-CONSORTIUM MEETING BETWEEN M. M. SINGH, SECRETARY MOF, AND AA/ASIA SULLIVAN, SINGH SAID HE HOPED WHEN US ANNOUNCED ITS AID COMMITMENT IT COULD BE DONE AS A PACKAGE INCLUDING PL-480 TITLE I AND II AS WELL AS WHATEVER WE WISHED TO SAY ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. HE FELT THAT THIS LARGER FIGURE WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN DELHI WHEN BILATERAL AID WITH US WAS BEING CONSIDERED AT POLITICAL LEVEL.

2. AS SINGH WAS NOT AWARE OF MINISTER PATEL MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR, SULLIVAN GAVE GIST OF MINISTER'S CONCERNS ON CONGRESSIONAL HEARING. HE EXPLAINED HEARINGS WERE NORMAL PRACTICE AND THAT INDIA SHOULD NOT FEEL IT WAS BEING SINGLED OUT. IF INDIA HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL BILL SAME QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED ALONG WITH THOSE DIRECTED TO OTHER AID RECIPIENTS. AID TO INDIA THIS YEAR WAS SUPPLEMENTARY AND THEREFORE HEARINGS WERE NATURALLY BEING HELD ON INDIA SEPARATELY. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF
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HEARINGS FOR CHANGING LOANS TO GRANTS FOR EGYPT LAST MARCH.

3. SULLIVAN WENT ON TO SAY IF HEARINGS WOULD IMPACT UNFAVORABLY ON BILATERAL RELATIONS OR FUTURE AID PROGRAMS, THEN USG PREPARED NOT TO PURSUE FY78 PROGRAM WITH CONGRESS. ON OTHER HAND, HEARINGS COULD REPRESENT

OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW INDIA IN FAVORABLE LIGHT IF SEVERAL CONGRESSMEN (I.E. SOLARZ, CALLAGHAN, AND OTHERS) WERE TO TESTIFY ON INDIA'S BEHALF.

4. AS FOR TITLE I, SULLIVAN SAID, ALTHOUGH THIS WAS INCLUDED IN LEGISLATION NOW IN CONGRESS, NO REPEAT NO COMMITMENT COULD BE MADE AT CONSORTIUM AS PRESENT ESTIMATE WAS THAT INDIA COULD NOT USE WHEAT, WHILE US VEGOIL AVAILABILITY UNCERTAIN.

5. U.S. WOULD MAKE COMMITMENT FOR TITLE II. IN ADDITION A QUOTE SEMI-COMMITMENT UNQUOTE FOR \$60 MILLION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WOULD BE TABLED AT CONSORTIUM MEETING. U.S. WOULD SAY THAT QUOTE WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS REGARDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IF GOI SO DESIRES. BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS NOW HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE UP TO \$60 MILLION FOR INDIA UNDER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF AID UNQUOTE.

6. SINGH REPLIED HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN TERMS WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR USE IN DELHI ALTHOUGH HE WAS DISAPPOINTED TITLE I NOT TO BE INCLUDED. HE VOICED REGRET THAT CABINET HAD TAKEN UP ISSUE WHILE HE WAS OUT OF COUNTRY AS HE FELT HE HIMSELF COULD HAVE EXPLAINED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. HE WOULD IN ANY EVENT CABLE HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUGHTS TO DELHI.
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